

Dawson John
 Form 4
 April 06, 2012

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Dawson John

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC.
 [DNKN]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)

Chief Development Officer

C/O DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC., 130 ROYALL STREET

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

BOSTON, MA 02021

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| | | | | Code | V | Amount | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction of Derivative | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. Underlying Securities |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|

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| Security (Instr. 3) | or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | any (Month/Day/Year) | Code (Instr. 8) | Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Option to purchase Common Stock | \$ 3.02 | 04/04/2012 | A | | 3,919 | | <u>(1)(2)</u> | 02/23/2020 | Common Stock | 3,919 |
| Option to purchase Common Stock | \$ 7.31 | 04/04/2012 | A | | 9,797 | | <u>(3)</u> | 03/09/2021 | Common Stock | 9,797 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Dawson John C/O DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. 130 ROYALL STREET BOSTON, MA 02021 | | | Chief Development Officer | |

Signatures

/s/ Richard Emmett, as attorney-in-fact for John Dawson
04/06/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
 - ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) On 02/23/2010, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 12,259 shares of Common Stock. The option vests based upon time (five equal annual installments that began on 02/23/2011) and performance (investment returns to investment funds affiliated with Bain Capital Partners, LLC, The Carlyle Group and Thomas H. Lee Partners, L.P. (collectively, the "Sponsors")) criteria.
- As a result of the sale of shares by the Sponsors on 04/04/2012, the performance criteria was met with respect to 3,919 shares of common stock subject to this option award, resulting in vesting of the option as to 1,568 shares and an additional 2,351 shares that are eligible to vest in three equal annual installments beginning on 02/23/2013. In total, following this event, the performance criteria has been met with respect to an aggregate of 7,418 shares of common stock subject to this option award, with 2,966 of such shares vested and the remaining 4,452 of such shares eligible to vest in three equal annual installments beginning on 02/23/2013.
- (2) On 03/09/2011, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 30,647 shares of Common Stock. The option vests based upon time (five equal annual installments that begin on 03/09/2012) and performance (investment returns to investment funds affiliated with the Sponsors) criteria. As a result of the sale of shares by the Sponsors on 04/04/2012, the performance criteria was met with respect to 9,797 shares of common stock subject to this option award, resulting in vesting of the option as to 1,960 shares and an addition 7,837

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shares that are eligible to vest in four equal annual installments beginning on 03/09/2013. In total, following this event, the performance criteria has been met with respect to an aggregate of 18,545 shares of common stock subject to this option award, with 3,707 of such shares vested and the remaining 14,838 eligible to vest in four equal annual installments beginning on 03/09/2013.

- In accordance with applicable rules, the number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactions reflects
- (4) only the shares issuable upon exercise of the reported option award and does not include shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of other option awards that have been previously reported.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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